

New Mexico Agriculture in the Classroom



Educator of the Year Award

2012 Application Form



Nomination Guidelines:

1. Complete the nomination outline.
2. **Prepare a summary description (no more than 250 words) of the project being submitted.** If a project is selected for an award and then wins an award at the national level, this summary will be included in the annual meeting program and will be posted on the web page.
3. **Provide a narrative response to the following three items (A, B, & C) listed below.** When writing the narrative, please consider the evaluation criteria.

Note: The narrative portion is limited to two pages for each item.

Each response must be typed on one side of the page only, using a font no smaller than 12-point, and double-spaced. All margins must be at least one inch. All pages must be paginated. It should be noted that reviewers will not be required to read beyond the six pages of the narrative. Each page (maximum of 2 per item) should be labeled with appropriate heading, as noted below:

- A. Describe the unique and innovative approaches that you use to advance agricultural literacy in your classroom.
- B. Identify the teaching methods employed to further agricultural literacy. Specify the agriculture concept taught and which academic areas of study are utilized. What was the depth and duration of the activity? Explain how these learning experiences helped advance state and /or national education standards.

- C. Explain how these activities helped students better understand the impact American agriculture has had on personal lives, our national heritage, the environment, the national security, and the economy.

Evaluation Criteria:

Each question will be judged based on the following criteria:

- a. **Creativity and Utilization of Agricultural Information**- The degree to which sound agricultural concepts have been infused into the classroom curriculum. Reference should be made to the creative methods utilized in advancing student learning. (25 points)
- b. **Interdisciplinary Approach**- The degree to which agricultural concepts have been included in a variety of subjects and disciplines. Value will be placed on the approach which teaches agriculture across the curriculum. (25 points)
- c. **Advancement of Educational Standards**- The degree to which the nominee aligns agricultural learning activities with New Mexico and/or national education standards.(25 points)
- d. **Subject Impact**- Evidence of impact on student attitudes and overall learning. (25 points)

The following supporting documentation must be included:

- **Endorsement by an Administrator**: A letter (signed and dated) by a school administrator should substantiate the candidate's excellence in and dedication to the teaching role.
- **Endorsement by a Co- worker**: A letter (signed and dated) by a school administrator should substantiate the candidate's excellence in and dedication to the teaching role.

Supplemental Information:

- Any additional information including letters of support, additional awards/recognition, etc. may be included in an appendix. The appendix

should not be used to expand the two- page limitation of the narrative sections.

- Color photographs or other graphics that demonstrate nominee's agriculture in the classroom activities may be included in the appendix.
- Because the winning portfolio will be utilized in NMAITC publicity materials, including the websites and Facebook pages, **please provide a statement of release for the use of photographs and other materials.** Please do not submit video or CD-ROM presentations.

All applications must be received by October 17, 2011. You will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of the application. The award winner will be notified by October 24th and a special award presentation will be held November 17th/18th at the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. For more information, please contact Traci Williams at (505)238-2425 or e-mail traci.williams@nmfarmbureau.org . If you are not chosen for an award, you are encouraged to re-apply. Previous NMAITC Educator of the Year award winners are not eligible to apply. The winning educator will go on to become the New Mexico nominee for the National Teacher of the Year. The questions on this application generally reflect the National Teacher of the Year Application.